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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Halle et al.  
Serial No.: 10/697,425  
Filed: October 29, 2003  
Docket No: 57150.109US1  
Title: FOOD SERVING APPARATUS

Examiner: TBD

Group Art Unit: 3728

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 AND 1.97**

Commissioner of Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313 1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

With regard to the above-identified Patent Application, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the items of information listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO/SB/08a, are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This Information Disclosure Statement should be considered because it is submitted before the first Office Action on the merits of the Application. Therefore, no fee is required. If such is not the case, any fee due may be charged to our firm's Deposit Account No. 502261.

As per 37 C.F.R. §1.104, no representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103, and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131 or otherwise, to establish that any such reference are not "prior art."

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Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of MPEP § 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08a, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 29, 2004

By:

  
Thomas C. McDonough  
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Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR § 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this document, and any enclosures, is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, via first class mail, postage prepaid, on this September 29, 2004.

By:   
S. K. Easterling

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  
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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

### Complete if Known

Application Number	10/697,425
Filing Date	10-29-2003
First Named Inventor	Halle
Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	57150.109US1

### U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 6,530,611	03-11-2003	Moreth	
		US- 5,551,741	09-03-1996	LaBoccetta	
		US- 5,526,569	06-18-1996	Ancona	
		US- 5,201,121	04-13-1993	Heiberg	
		US- 5,014,434	05-14-1991	Skerker et al.	
		US- 4,937,942	07-03-1990	Skerker et al.	
		US- 4,890,549	01-02-1990	Steiner et al.	
		US- 4,569,130	02-11-1986	Koller et al.	
		US- 4,088,360	05-09-1978	Jenkins et al.	
		US- 4,076,297	02-28-1978	McFarland	
		US- 3,730,579	05-01-1973	Mock	
		US-			

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.